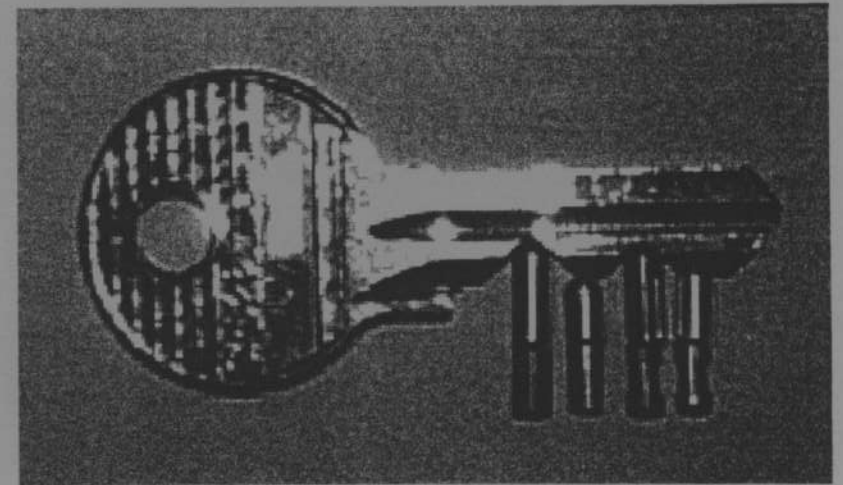


Sigi Zimmermann

SOMETHING NEW ABOUT LOCKPICKING



**WHY THE HELL IT DIDN'T WORK
WITH YOU?**

Sigi Zimmermann

SOMETHING NEW ABOUT LOCKPICKING

**The lockpicking training course written from the point of
view of a beginner**

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1. Foreword

I always thought about lockpicking as an interesting hobby, and nothing more. Nevertheless I've learnt many people are suspicious about lock pickers, see them as strange, irregular weirdos, and potential criminals. Indeed, this misconception is mainly due to ignorance about what lockpicking really is. It can't be denied that the ability of picking locks could be used in illegal activities, but it is not at all the most suitable tool for them. I never heard of a thief who took the time of picking a lock, I always heard of them bashing down the door or simply cracking the lock with a bolt. That is why a real thief needs to be quick. At the opposite, lock picking is a science, maybe an art. Surely it requires a comfortable position, focusing of attention, tranquillity. Otherwise the tension wrench will stiffen, the picking hand will get uselessly violent, and even the easiest lock will reveal unexpected problems.

This short foreword is to explain why I feel not only legally, but even morally legitimate to write and spread this book: because I know that real thieves would find it useless. As for those who will learn the Art of Lockpicking, I wish them an amusing and enriching experience.

Before starting, let me recommend you, for the reasons above, that you never demonstrate your skill to your friends, unless they are few, good, discreet friends. You might be suspected for any theft in the neighborhood, so be cautious.

2. Premise

I assume that you have already read the scripts and docs available on the Internet regarding lockpicking. That stuff can give you the basics, and there is no use that I explain you what is the cylinder and what is the hull. At least you should read the "MIT guide to lockpicking", by Ted the Tool, that is available for free on the Internet.

Anyway, in case you are an absolute beginner, I'll describe now the basic nomenclature of the pin tumbler lock's

components. The outside part is named the hull, while the inside rotating part is called the cylinder. The hull and the cylinder have small holes, where pins are located. I'll call these small tunnels "sockets". When the lock is in rest position (without the key in), the hull's sockets are aligned with the cylinder's sockets. In these sockets there are upper pins, those ones that come in contact with the key (or the lock pick), and lower pins, shortly named "drivers", that are in contact with a spring. Below each spring there is, obviously, a plug.

One last premise: english is not my mother tongue, so you may notice some strange syntax. I'm sure the book is fully comprehensible, anyway, and that is important.

3. Misconceptions

Just like you, I'm a curious Internet user who tried this lockpicking thing. Of course I read all the stuff that you too have found. There is the "MIT guide to lockpicking", the "Introduction to lockpicking", and a few more scripts that give you the basic informations, but also leave you with many questions unanswered, and the questions grow in number when you first try to pick your first pin tumbler lock.

The next step is the newsgroup alt.locksmithing but it is not easy to get the right information from there. First, not all locksmiths are lockpickers. Second, not all of those who know want to share their knowledge (for a variety of reasons). Third, you are continually misled by the typical wannabes, who seem to know so much and often never picked a lock in their life.

At this point, many neophytes just drop the thing. But not me. I kept on with patience and in the end I became able to really pick nearly all pin tumbler locks. In the following pages I'll tell you how.

4. Professional tools

You absolutely need professional picking tools to start. I've

read somewhere that it is better to start with improvised tools, and then the pro ones "will give you magic fingers". Forget it. More likely you won't pick a lock, and quickly give it up. On the opposite, when you are a beginner you need any possible advantage. As an expert, you'll be able to try magics with needles and spikes.

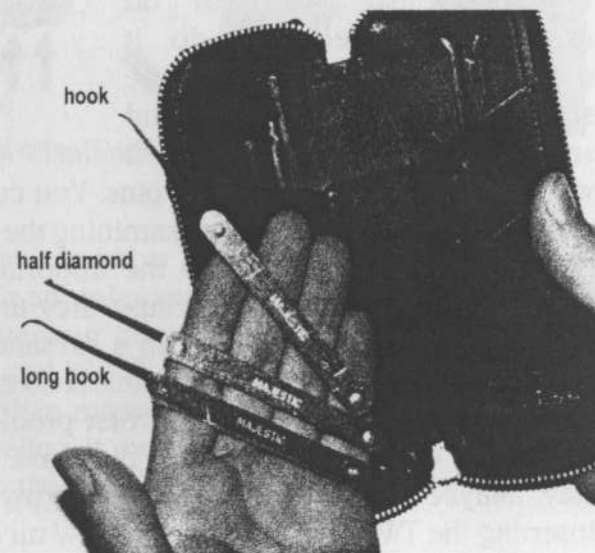
You can buy professional lock picks easily via the Internet. I can direct you to two reliable companies:

Incite Technologies (www.my-secret.com)
Indianapolis, IN, USA

Brockhage International (www.lock-picks.com)
Milpitas, CA, USA

I don't endorse these companies in any way, and I'm not associate with them. I just purchased goods from them and I found the service satisfactory. I suggest that you buy the typical Majestic 16 pieces set.

Now, first of all, not all tools are useful. Of course you don't need rakes, all those serpentine shaped tools. Raking is not picking, not as I mean it, at least. The ball and double ball can be used sometimes, but they are never necessary. The diamond and half-diamond can be used with small



Here is the Majestic 16 pieces set.

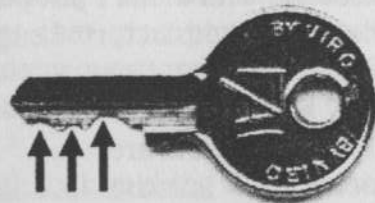
locks. The really useful picks are the hook and the long hook. You absolutely need one of each.

The tension wrench is of course necessary. I suggest to use the most basic kind of it. You can't use nothing that is too stiff, such as a small screwdriver. The wrench's shaft must be flexible. A feather touch tension wrench is the best wrench possible, but I discourage its use for beginners. By now you need to feel each feeble slide, break and shiver running up your wrist, so use the simple L shaped piece of steel, and start with the light one.

Going on, you should find a way to purchase single lock picks, instead of sets. You'll need many hooks: first because they are consumed by use; second because you'll want to make your own custom versions.

5. The starting lock

Not only it is important to start with the right picks, but also the right locks. If you begin with a too difficult lock, it will crunch your enthusiasm. Always remember that you can do anything, provided you do it gradually. So go to your hardware store and choose the cheapest and smallest padlock you can find. It



One pin for each hollow.

will have probably 3 or even 2 pins. You can easily determine the number of pins a lock has by examining the key (see picture).

Please notice since now the importance of psychology. We choose padlocks not only because they are compact and cheap, but also because they open with a satisfactory "cling" that sounds like a victorious bell. Believe me, this is no crap.

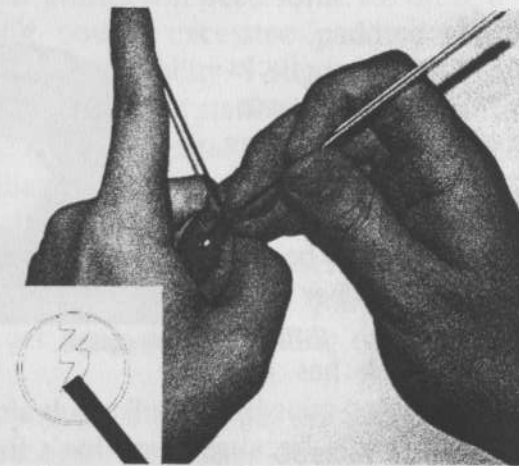
Well, with this lock, your worst problem will probably be to find room enough for both the pick and the tension wrench to stay. Maybe this is time to describe my favourite method of inserting the TW (from now onward, TW means tension wrench).

In other Internet lockpicking courses, the TW is almost

always inserted all the way down the keyhole, in contact with the hull, at the opposite side of the pins. Depending on the keyhole size, this may be very space consuming and may entangle badly the pick. So I always prefer the middle insertion (see picture). It works great and lets you maneuver freely with your pick.

After choosing the insertion method, you'll get the the half diamond or the short hook and you're ready to start.

Now, if you have read other lockpicking docs, you probably already know what you have to do. Shortly, you must apply a light torque (making sure it is the right direction!) and then try to push down each pin, until them all reach the shear line and "break". The lock you are working on is so easy that probably you'll have it open in seconds. You may feel silly, but remember that graduality is the key. And don't think the first lesson is over: close the padlock and start over. I'll now outline all the elements that must be considered while practicing on a lock.



The middle insertion, my favourite.

Number of pins

In this case you already know how many pins the lock has, but when you try to pick an unknown lock you can't examine the key in advance! So move your hook on the first pin's head. Then move it gently forward and find the second small head. Go on till you reach the last one, then move backward. Do it again, pushing down each pin and feeling it swing back into place. This also allows you to appreciate the springs' strenght.

Picking Pattern

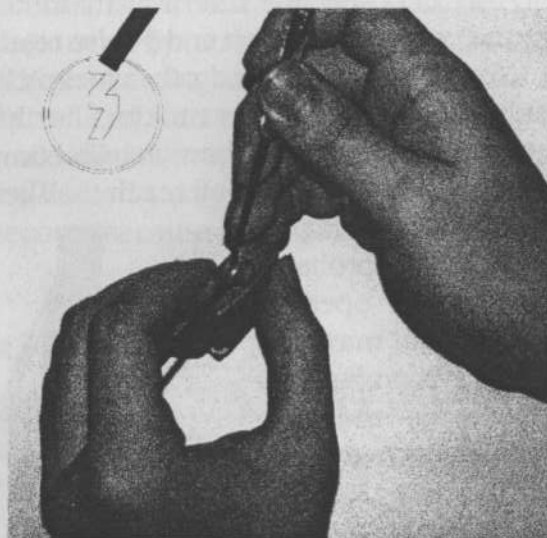
You will always be tempted to pick pins in order. But this is not always right, because pins aren't all made equal. Moreover, your torque may incline the cylinder's axis, increasing the difference of tension among pins. So you must "taste" each pin and start picking the hardest. This is a really golden rule so be sure to keep it in mind while practicing.

Guards

Serious locks always have guards. Indeed, pin tumbler locks may be correctly divided into easy locks and difficult locks basing upon the number and dimension of guards. The easy lock has just short protruding guards that will result almost irrelevant during the picking, specially because they don't follow all the leght of the keyhole. Hard locks' plugs have a jagged appearance, and you will be forced to twist your pick around guards to pick the pin. But difficult locks will be discussed later: your first lock has guards that won't give you problems.

6. More easy locks

Now you need to test yourself on more taxing locks. You'll purchase another padlock, a little bigger than the previous one. This one must have 4 pins, that are enough to make you sweat. This is the time when problems could arise, so let's make sure to work in the best conditions, considering some factors I ignored with the first easy lock.



Side insertion.

Position

You must be comfortable. Sit down, lay your legs, hold securely the padlock and the TW with your week hand. You may choose to push the TW with one or more fingers, but your fingers only will work on it, not the wrist. This is necessary because only fingers are sensible enough for this purpose. We'll see that the TW is not only used to apply tension, but it also acts as a probe.

The grip for the pick may vary, but basically I suggest the one shown in the pictures above. You'll probably want to pad your thumb, because it will exert the heaviest torque. Believe me, after 30 minutes of practice your thumb will need some ice on it, if you don't pad it properly. Of course excessive padding must be avoided, as it could decrease sensibility. I suggest rubber finger caps. They can be bought in specialized stationery shops.

Your mental attitude is fundamental too. You must be calm. If you are into yoga, meditation or any other similar practice, you know what I mean. If not, just close your eyes and take some deep breath, empty your mind from any other concern. When picking up the padlock and tools, don't think you are going to fight with the lock. You'll need to get deep understanding of it, you can't hate it.

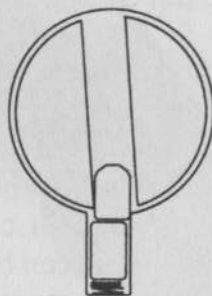
During the practice, you must never get nervous or bored. If you start getting angry because the fucker doesn't open (unless you are named Merlin, this will happen often) just stop and have a break. I the meantime, think about what happened and what could be the reason of your failures.

It happened to me to try picking a lock till late at night. Finally I had to give up while the sun was rising (lockpicking is a drug, didn't you know?) and went to bed unable to sleep because of anger. The next day, I started working with clear mind and opened the lock in 10 minutes. So, if this happens to you, just put it away till tomorrow.

Working on it

As above, you'll examine the lock with your pick alone.

Count the pins, try to push each of them. You must verify that all pins move smoothly. Then you may insert the TW and start to pick. Try pin 1. If it is stuck by the torque, push it until it moves and breaks. As you already know, the pin "breaks" when the the end of the upper pin is aligned with the shear line between the hull and the cylinder. When the pin breaks, you'll hear a click. Evaluating this click is vital. It must be a real click, loud and sharp. If the pin moves and seems to get stuck, but there is no click, it is falsely set, because it didn't reach the shear line and is only held back by attrition. This means you should push it more strongly, or release some tension.



You've pushed too much and now the pin is blocked by attrition. You'd better start over.

Once pin 1 is set, go on to pin 2. If you are lucky, you can pick all pins in the easiest pattern, 1-2-3-4. But don't be sure of it. You may find pin 2 is loose. If this is the case, don't push it. Because it could pass the shear line and get stuck in a manner that would prevent you from opening the lock. This is an important topic, so let's see it more closely. In the picture you can see what happens.

If needed, move on to pin 3 or 4, until you find the hard one. Then push it until you hear the click. If for instance you picked pins 1-3, then you may find that pin 4 moves hardly, but pin 2 has become the hardest. This means you must pick 1-3-2 and finally 4. This is not uncommon.

The uniform tension problem

While working this way, if you feel that something is going wrong, release the TW and start over. But before you apply torque again, let's pay attention to some details. Releasing the TW, you'll hear all the pins you had set (both really and falsely) slip back with a click. Count the clicks to know how many were set. You may discover that only one was set, or possibly no one! This is a problem that always drives beginners crazy, and is never fully

explained.

The inconvenience occurs when many pins are subject to an equal (or almost equal) amount of attrition simultaneously. When you pick one of them, you hear a soft click, because it is only restrained by a tiny turn of the cylinder. When you pick another pin, the simple vibration is enough to let the previous pin slip back. Sometimes you hear the sound of the lower pin popped back by its spring, sometimes not (this may happen because the lower pin is slowed by attrition, or because the spring is weak). So you think all the pins are set while just one is!

How can you overcome this inconvenience? There are basically two methods.

The first one is increasing the torque. You always hear masters preaching that a soft torque is vital. This may be perfect for them, but a beginner always picks clumsily, snatching and raking the pick so that vibrations may unset pins that aren't firmly held! As a matter of fact, I have a padlock that never got picked until I applied some heavy torque. Then I started hearing loud clicks and got it opened in seconds! I call it Rule of Reason, whatever they may say.

The second one implies a more careful examination of the picking pattern. Try all the possible patterns, because you could find the right one. Of course the two methods could be used together.

After you made it

When you succeed to open a lock, first of all you must run all over your house in a victory dance (I don't need to tell you this ☺). But after that, you must think why it got opened now and which mistakes you had done all the other times. Then try again. You'll often realize that you can't open it anymore! That is why sometimes locks open for a lucky shot, or just some luck helped you. Anyway, now you know it can be done, so try again with the same attitude of before, and you'll see you can do it again.

In fact, very often a beginner thinks that when he picked a

lock he can stop respecting her (yes, I wrote "her"), and she'll always be ready at his wishes. This sounds like I'm talking about a woman, don't you think? And in fact a lock is like a woman: once you got her, you may think she is your doll. In the end she kicks your ass. And that is what happens with locks. So, think that every time is like the first time.

Well, this was the workout for easy locks, those without guards and no other vicious tricks such as the infamous spool driver (discussed further). Here is a summary.

- Put your body at ease
- Put your mind at ease
- With the pick alone, count the pins
- Verify that each pin can move freely
- Start picking the hardest pin

7. Difficult locks

Now it is time to start working on some really hard subject. Go to your hardware shop and buy a good padlock. This padlock will cost at least four times more than your first one, and will be of a known brand. You want a padlock with guards and with four pins (no good locks have less than four pins). You may find out both informations examining the key and keyhole.

Just try it as you already did with other locks. Now, you could be lucky and open the lock. But more likely you just can't do it. Before you consume your fingers, let me explain you what's new with this lock.

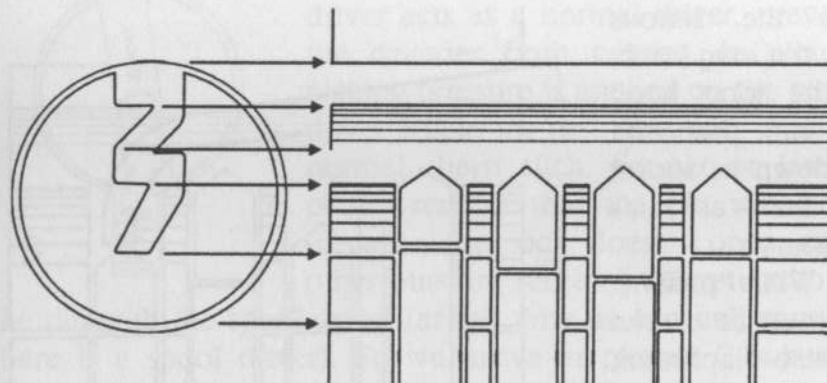


The lower guard covers part of the pins. The two upper guards will just entangle your pick.

Guards

I already anticipated that difficult locks have well protruding guards, now I'll discuss the consequences of this feature.

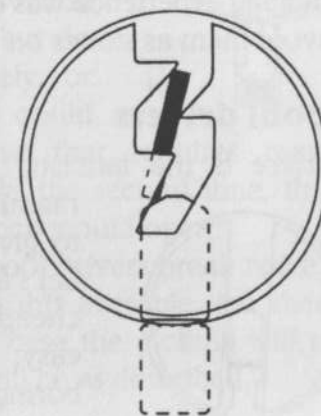
Till now, you have been picking pins by just lowering the



The upper guard is continuous. The lower one is interrupted by pins, and forms diaphragms between them. The right guard is not shown.

pick vertically on their head, but that is why guards were designed, to prevent this easy job. Now your pick has to make a chicane amongst guards, and considering that you are using the long hook, this may be really difficult.. See the picture for a clear illustration of the problem.

When you are picking this type of locks, you must penetrate with your pick between the guards, with a twisting motion that sometimes counterbalances the torque of the TW and can waste all your work, letting the pins pop back. This will be



The tip of the pick is entangled by the guards: you must twist it..

discussed in further workouts.

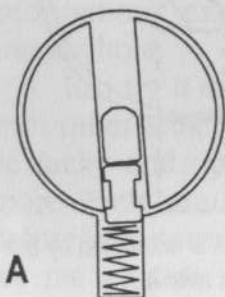
Another nasty feature of guards is that they don't just stay on the opening of the keyhole, but are extruded all along the cylinder. So they form a diaphragm separating each couple of pins. This means that you need the serious pick, the long hook. By the long hook you can push the pin down its socket as far as it's necessary.

While picking, you must be careful to these diaphragms, because you could push them thinking that you've found the pin's head, to the only avail of bending or breaking your pick.

I must say, this is not a problem that can't be overcome with some training (well, maybe a lot of training). I remember I first thought I could never dodge those nasty guards, I thought my lockpicking experience was over, but now, after years of practice, I just avoid them as stones on the path.

8. Spool drivers

Here is the fantastic idea that lock manufacturers had to give us more fun! Let's admit it: picking cheap locks is too easy, it would get boring if spool drivers didn't exist.



A

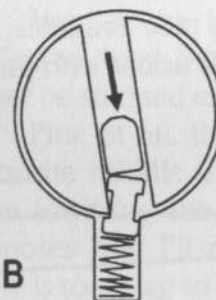


Pins 3 and 4 have spool drivers.

First of all, be aware that drivers can also be mushroom shaped, but spool

drivers are more common.

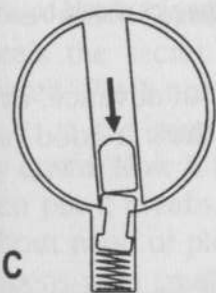
The particularity of spool drivers is that they have a bevel in the middle part of their body, with two sharp edges. For this reason, they break twice. This is well explained in the sequence of



B

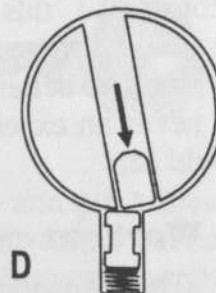
pictures A-B-C-D. In picture A the spool driver acts as a normal driver, preventing the cylinder from turning. In picture B picking pressure is applied on the pin. The driver breaks the first time, with a perfectly normal sharp click. Sooner or later the picker realizes that the pin was not set (because the lock doesn't open even if other pins are set) and will return to push

the pin with the spool driver (at this time he can only guess that there is a spool driver). So we arrive at picture C, where the driver's upper bevel reaches the shear line. To pass it the cylinder



C

must be turned back a little. So the picker will feel the TW that pushes back against his fingers. It may be necessary to release some tension, but do it very delicately, or the other pins could



D

pop back. This is a critical phase that requires maximum sensibility. In picture D the pin breaks the second time, this time for real. If it was the last pin left, the lock would open.

Please notice that not always spool drivers break twice. If the pin is longer than the one shown in this example, the shear line will correspond to the bevel. In this case the picking will start at step B, but then the pin's behaviour will be as described.

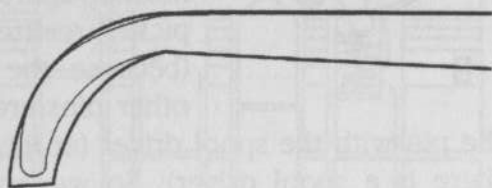
9. Adjusting the long hook

Custom made tools are always the best choice. Of course you

need experience because you can exploit them. There are many resources both free on the Net and available commercially, about the art of crafting lock picks. There is no use that I repeat here what has been already told by others.

But since I consider the long hook the best pick available, I'll suggest your some fine tuning that you can do at home with just a small file.

In the picture you can see the typical shape of the Majestic long hook. The thin line describes the way it should be. The rounded point will crawl more easily in the socket. Anyway, all the picks become like this with use, and it is known that old picks are better, so you can try to do the job in advance, even if it needs an experienced lock picker, to know how a good pick should be.



The thinner line shows how the pick should be after you work on it.

10. Workout experiences

The following chapter is probably the most important of all this book, because it best represents and puts into practice my fundamental will to drive the beginner step by step during his practicing hours, to sustain him in the times of discouragement that will unavoidably occur.

Here you will find separate sections, each one dedicated to a lock that I tried and finally picked. You'll get an insider's view of the process, the reasoning and deductions that allow a successful approach to each lock. The last one in the series is a difficult door-lock with spool drivers, as a demonstration that my teachings are suitable even for the hardest subjects.

Please notice that from the following accounts it could seem

that I picked every lock at the first attempt. At the opposite, it took hours and often days, so be patient.

Workout 1 (3 pins cheap small padlock)

Here is the first subject of our examination. This is easy, useless to deny, but it is necessary to start with small steps (this will never be stressed enough).

First of all, the TW position. I prefer not to use my favourite middle insertion, because it would prevent me from lowering the first pin, if necessary. Of course this supposes that I'll use the short hook, because the long hook is too long to be handled in this small lock.

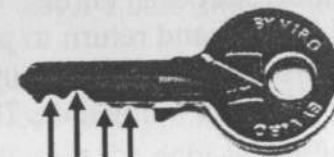
I probe pin 1, and it results unmovable, hardly stuck. Maybe I should lighten the TW, but before let me probe pin 2: it can move, despite some attrition. When it is almost entirely lowered, the lock suddenly opens! This may seem magic, but a quick examination of the key reveals the secret. Pin 1 needs not be lowered. Pin 3 must go only a bit down. Pin 2, at the opposite, must go all the way down. Now it is clear what happens: when pin 2 breaks, pin 1 is already at its place, and pin 3 breaks without need of picking. Any way, this was a lucky shot, but only happens with small locks, with short distances between the pins' breaking points.



Workout 2 (4 pins cheap medium padlock)

This padlock is as cheap as the first one. Only it is bigger, and thus has more difference between the breaking positions of pins. And then of course, it has four pins.

After probing the pins and verifying that all can move, I apply torque and start picking the first one. It goes down and breaks (not very



sharply, but I think it broke. The second one also goes all the way down, and then breaks clearly. The third one breaks as soon as I touch it. The fourth one breaks at mid run, and the lock opens.

OK, it happens sometimes to find a lock that you can just pick 1-2-3-4.

Of course I try it again, to get a clear understanding of the lock's features. I realize that there are problems. I try the same sequence but to no avail. Thinking about it, I remember that pin 2 was quite loose, even if seemed to break anyway. It could be that I pushed it beyond the breaking point. So I try changing the sequence to 1-3-4-2. All the pins start to pop back too easily while I'm picking. I decide to apply more torque and switch to the bigger TW. Immediately the clicks become more sharp. After picking 1-3-4 (all very loud and sharp), I turn my attention to that nasty pin 2. Finally, it goes all the way down and then the lock clicks open. This time the pattern is bulletproof. I try it again and again and it always works.

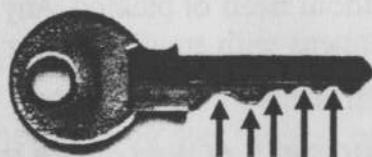
This shows you two things: first, there is just one right pattern and one right tension amount. Others may work, but only once out of ten. Second, sometimes heavy torque is preferable.

Workout 3 (5 pins cheap padlock)

This is of the same kind of the previous ones, only it has 5 pins.

Pin 1 is loose, but it gets stuck anyway, and I go on. Pin 2 is very loose, I pass on. Pin 3 moves a bit and breaks clearly, the same for pin 4. Pin 5 goes down with attrition but doesn't break. I think it doesn't have enough attrition, so I let it be and return to pin 2. Now it has attrition. It goes down and breaks. Now back to pin 5, the only missing one. As I expected, it breaks after a tiny slide. The lock is open. So pin 1 was correctly set, after all.

There is not much to say about this padlock, except it shows



you that picking patterns can be very irregular. In this case it was 1-3-4-2-5. Trying it again, I found that often pin 1 is released while working on pin 3, 4 or 2, but can be picked later. This changes the pattern to 3-4-2-1-5.

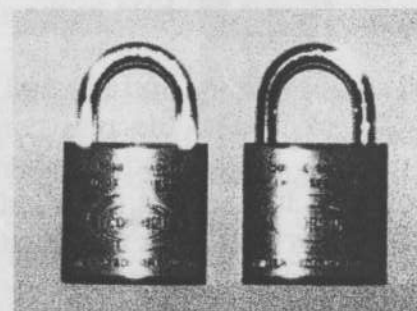
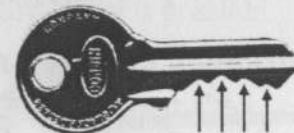
Workout 4 (4 pins Corbin medium padlock)

This is the first serious lock we encounter. Be aware that the feeling will be discouraging, unless you are more gifted than me.

Pin 1 is loose. As I push it, it goes down and then slips back easily, showing that there is no attrition on it. Pin 2 gives me the typical positive reaction: slides down a bit and then clicks. The same for pin 3, except that I notice a strange behaviour: when I apply pressure on it, I feel the TW trying to turn back, and when pin 3 breaks it feels like climbing over an obstacle. You should have recognized this as the symptoms of a spool driver. Well, this is the demonstration that this trick is not so terrible, since I picked it without even knowing its nature.

Now on to pin 4. Immediately I feel the TW pulling back fiercely. OK, here we have another spool driver. I release some torque, adjust the pick on the pin's head and give it another push. At last it breaks, but I feel other pins popping back! OK, no panic. I return back to pick pin 2 and 3, in this order, and there are no problems. I heard no sound from pin 4, so I'm only missing pin 1. I push it a little and the lock clicks open!

Now, all I need is to optimize the pattern. In fact, one should always work it out until he can pick the lock with just one push on each pin. This is only possible if your pattern is the right one. There could be two or more that are both good, but not very likely.



In the end I found that the perfect one was 2-3-1-4. It is well explained: with the first and last pin still bearing pressure, pins 2 and 3 are in an unsteady situation, and the cylinder's turn back necessary to overcome the spool driver of pin 4 makes them pop back easily. Once pressure at pin 1 is released, it all changes.

I'd like to outline one thing that I could have told too hastily: the importance of pushing the pin with pauses. When the pin must be pushed a lot, and when there are spool drivers in particular, it is good to stop, re-adjust the pick, and push again.

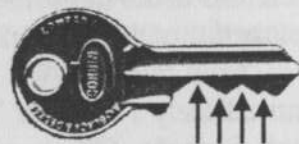
Workout 5 (another 4 pins medium Corbin padlock)

Let's try another Corbin. These padlocks are cheap but well constructed.

This time pin 1 is hard. I start pushing, and it suddenly breaks. It was too swift, I'm suspicious. In fact pin 2 and 3 break, and then I found pin 4 totally loose. Very easy to explain: pin 1 is bind and all the pressure is on it. When I say "bind" I mean that I pushed it too



low and the pin (not the driver) is now held in the shearline between the cylinder and the hull. I let all the pins come back



and try again. This time I push pin 1 one more carefully. It breaks at the middle of its run. The click was feeble, that is why I passed it the first time. Probably it is not the right one to start with, but let's go on.

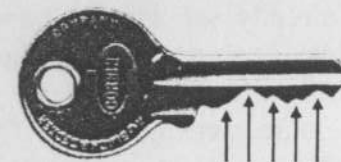
Pin 2 breaks perfectly after running all its way. Pin 3 breaks easily. Pin 4 must be pushed very low. It's not easy because it's the last one. After adjusting carefully the tip of the pick, it breaks and the lock opens.

I try it again and again, but the order 1-2-3-4 seems to be the best one. OK, it happens sometimes. If I'll need to demonstrate my quickness I'll take this padlock with me ☺.

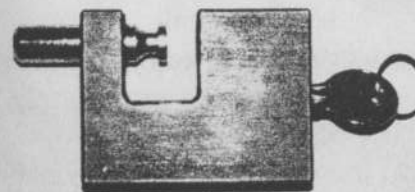
Workout 6 (5 pins big Corbin padlock)

Picking this one was very hard for me. I used this padlock for years to secure my bike, and I had bought it because it was so big and seemed unbreakable. It was psychologically taxing to try to pick it. Maybe this is the reason why it took so much time. I think I worked on it one hour a day for 10 days. And it is incredible that now I can pick it in less than a minute. Yes, it is important to remember the pattern, and surely my skill has increased, but also it is very easy to do something that you already know is possible.

Well, to work now. Pin 1 is loose, very loose. Pin 2 goes down a bit and breaks. When this happens the cylinder turns a pretty wide angle: probably the pins are not very well aligned. Now there is much pressure on pin 1. It breaks immediately, but I see that it springs back when I release it: this means it is not really set, otherwise the spring couldn't push. You may ask "what if it was an inside pin you couldn't see?" Well, I should have given it a little push later.



I push it again and this time it breaks for real, all the way down. Pin 3 goes down and breaks. Pin 4 is not very easy. This lock has very well done guards, and is not very large, handling the long hook is difficult. Fortunately pin 4 breaks. Pin five must have all the pressure now, and is all up.



Since I can't incline the pick, I find that I can't put it on the pin's head. So what? I get the simple hook and push pin 5 down a bit. Then get back to the long hook and start

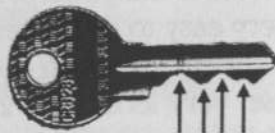
pushing it down the socket. Well, it is not a long run, as you can guess from the key's shape. Pin 5 breaks and the work is done. It seems easy now, done by an experienced lock picker as I have become, and it seemed so hard for the beginner that I once was (Oh, lockpicking poetry! ☺).

Workout 7 (Corbin door lock)

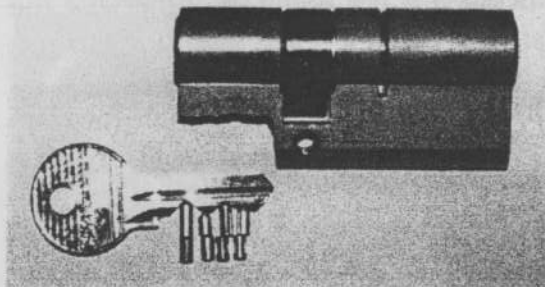
Yes, opening padlocks may be useful, but opening doors is way cooler, so here we are.

Picking this one was really hard for me, because it had been my house's door lock for many years! Now we have a much more safe iron door with a safe lock (I have no idea how it could be picked, fortunately), so this one is good for exercise.

I find pin 1 is loose. Pin 2 goes down with attrition, and breaks at the end of the run. I try again pin 1 but find it already set. I must have lowered it while pushing pin 2. I hope it is not falsely set. Anyway, I try pin 3 that breaks easily. Any further pressure gives no result. Then I try pin 4. It breaks easily, but the lock doesn't open. I return on pin 3, and now I see it can be pushed further. It gives me the typical reaction of a pin with a



spool driver, and then the lock opens. This means pin 3 had reached its first break, but only after pin 4 was set and more pressure was released on pin 3, it could be taken to its second break.



Like all door locks, this one was bigger than padlocks. This is an advantage, since there is more room to move the pick. Lately I disassembled one half of this lock, so I could get a close view of those damned spool drivers. Now you may watch them too in the picture.

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